

**TESTIMONY OF THE  
DEPARTMENT OF INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE  
BEFORE THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON INLAND  
FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE**

**NEITHER FOR NOR AGAINST L.D. 691**

**“AN ACT TO ALLOW SUNDAY HUNTING FOR COYOTES IN NORTHERN MAINE”**

**SPONSORED BY: Senator VOLK of Cumberland**

CO-SPONSORED BY: Senator BURNS of Washington, Representatives BEAR of Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians, and DANA of the Passamaquoddy Tribe.

**DATE OF HEARING: April 7, 2015**

Good afternoon Senator Davis, Representative Shaw and members of the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee. I am Jim Connolly, Resource Management Director at the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, speaking on behalf of the Department, neither for nor against **L.D. 691**.

This bill permits the hunting of coyotes on Sunday in the northern part of the State and sets the fee for a Sunday coyote hunting permit at \$10. It requires the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to adopt rules to establish areas in northern Maine open to hunting coyotes on Sunday.

We certainly recognize and appreciate the intent of this bill to provide additional opportunities to reduce our coyote population. Currently, we have a very liberal coyote hunting season. You can hunt coyote during daylight hours from Jan 1-December 31. There is an additional night hunting season by permit from December 16-August 31. There is also a trapping season from October 19-December 31. There are no bag limits set for any of the seasons that coyote can be harvested.

The Administration does understand that Sunday hunting could provide potential economic growth and additional opportunity to hunters. At the same time, we recognize that landowners prefer to have Sunday as a day that they can enjoy their land and allow other stewards opportunity to recreate without hunting related concerns. I would also like to caution the Committee against creating another permitting and fee requirement and would suggest exploring creating this option without the permitting and fee requirement contained in this bill as introduced.

I would be glad to answer any questions at this time or during the work session.